

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DAY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AID/NE - MR. NOOTER

USAID/J- MR. SIMMONS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP, PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: ISSUES ARISING OUT OF CROWN PRINCE HASSAN'S VISIT

REF: AMMAN 9616

1. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN'S TEN-DAY PRIVATE VISIT TO U.S.
ENDED DEC 11, HIS ACTIVITIES HERE HAVING CULMINATED IN A
BREAKFAST MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND A HALF-HOUR
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD ON DEC 9. HIS OFFICIAL APPOINT-
MENTS IN WASHINGTON ALSO INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH COMMERCE
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE RICHARDSON, UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON,
AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON,
USGS DIRECTOR MCELVEY AND WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA.
HASSAN ATTENDED MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-
COMMISSION OF US-JORDANIAN JOINT COMMISSION, LUNCHEDED WITH
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND HAD DISCUSSION
SESSION WITH HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

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HE ALSO MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES,

INCLUDING SENATORS JAVITS, INOUE, MATHIAS, AND PERCY AND REPRESENTATIVE PASSMAN. IN BETWEEN PRIVATE BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS, SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC APPEARANCES ARRANGED FOR HIM HERE AS WELL AS IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, PHILADELPHIA AND CAMBRIDGE, MASS., HASSAN ALSO FOUND TIME FOR SEVERAL HELICOPTER FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHTS, A COMPREHENSIVE DESALINIZATION BRIEFING AT DEPT OF THE INTERIOR, AND A HIGHLY WORTHWHILE VISIT TO CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND. REMAINDER OF HIS TIGHTLY-PACKED SCHEDULE WAS TAKEN UP BY VARIOUS DINNERS, RECEPTIONS, PRESS INTERVIEWS AND PRIVATE VISITS WITH CP'S PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCES (INCLUDING NOTRE DAME PRESIDENT HESBURGH) IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON.

2. MAJOR ISSUES RAISED IN VISIT:

A. FIVE YEAR PLAN. AID'S EVALUATION OF PLAN SUMMARY AS PRESENTED BY GOJ DELEGATION IS PRELIMINARY, PENDING MORE EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON STUDY OF COMPLETE PLAN DOCUMENT. WHILE IT DIFFICULT TO JUDGE ACCURATELY ON BASIS OF LIMITED MATERIAL NOW TRANSLATED, AID SEES PLAN OVERALL AS VERY AMBITIOUS AND CONTAINING SEVERAL QUESTIONABLE ASSUMPTIONS--E.G. (1) THE IMPROBABILITY OF ATTAINING AN INVESTMENT RATE OF 35 PER CENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT; (2) UNREALISTIC PROJECTION OF PHOSPHATE EXPORT EARNINGS; (3) THE INSTITUTIONAL DIFFICULTY OF HAVING THE PUBLIC SECTOR PROVIDE THE LARGEST SHARE OF INVESTMENTS; (4) MAINTAINING A GROWTH RATE OF 12 PER CENT PER ANNUM; (5) MANPOWER AVAILABILITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES PARTICULARLY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR; AND (6) CONSIDERABLE DEPENDENCE ON RECEIVING EXTERNAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT THE CURRENT LEVELS.

B. U. S. ASSISTANCE. HASSAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LEVEL OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COULD BE MAINTAINED. NOTING SHIFT AWAY FROM BUDGET SUPPORT TOWARD LOANS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL DEBT SERVICE BURDEN RESULTING FROM THE PLAN, CP PROPOSED THAT MONEY BE MADE AVAILABLE PARTLY IN LOANS BUT PARTLY IN WHAT HE TERMED "DEVELOPMENT GRANTS." (THIS WAS TAKEN UP CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE SPECIFICALLY LATER BY HANNA ODEH AND WAS SAME PROPOSAL ODEH DISCUSSED WITH SIMMONS AND PEARSON PRIOR TO CP'S DEPARTURE.) JORDANIANS ASKED WHETHER PART OF PROPOSED DOLS 18 MILLION IN FY 76 SA LOANS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN GRANTS FOR PROJECTS INCLUDED IN GOJ BUDGET. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THEY ASKED IF PART OF DOLS 11 MILLION LOAN NOW PROGRAMMED FOR AQABA GRAIN STORAGE PROJECT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AS GRANT. AID'S POSITION WAS THAT SA

FUNDS EARMARKED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION FOR LOANS COULD NOT BE PROVIDED ON GRANT BASIS. HOWEVER, AID AGREED TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF USING PART OF DOLS 11 MILLION IN LOAN FUNDS TENTATIVELY SET ASIDE FOR GRAIN STORAGE TO SUPPORT PROJECTS FROM GOJ DEVELOPMENT BUDGET.

C. DONOR CONFERENCE. GOJ PROPOSES CONVENE A CONFERENCE IN LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY 1976 OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AIDING JORDAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CP ASKED AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER WHETHER US WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A CONFERENCE, AND MR. PARKER SAID WE WOULD. CP SUGGESTED THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS CONFERENCE ANOTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMISSION MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN AMMAN, SUBJECT TO MR. PARKER'S AVAILABILITY. INGERSOLL

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